was In many respects a splendid performance, and perhaps better for the play than the more polished, thoughtful, and deliberate Benedick of Henry Irving.

Physically a manly, bulldog sort of a man, Charles Kelly possessed as an actor great tenderness and humour. It was foolish of him to refuse the part of Burchell in "Olivia/* in which he would have made a success equal to that achieved by Terriss as the Squire. But he was piqued at not being cast for the Vicar, which he could not have played well, and stubbornly refused to play Burchell.

Alas ! many actors are just as blind to their true interests.

We were married in 1876, and after I left the Court Theatre for the Lyceum, we continued to tour together in the provinces during vacation time when the Lyceum was closed. These tours were very successful, but I never worked harder in my life ! When we played " Dora " at Liverpool, Charles Reade, who had adapted the play from Tennyson's poem, wrote:

'* Nincompoop !

'* What have you to fear from me for such a masterly performance ! Be assured nobody can appreciate your value and Mr. Kelly's as I do. It is well played all round."